Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for embedding message data in ~~a digital image~~ an image sequence having two or more frames, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a dispersed message image representative of the message data; [[and]]

b) producing a cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message image corresponding to a spatial offset;

[[b)]] c) combining ~~spatially shifted versions~~ the cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message image with ~~successive frames~~ a frame of the ~~digital~~ image sequence; and

d) repeating steps b) and c) for one or more additional frames of the image sequence.

2. (Currently Amended) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of ~~providing a~~ producing a cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message image includes the steps of:

a1) producing a message image representing the message data;

a2) providing a carrier image; [[and]]

a3) convolving the message image with the carrier image to ~~produce the~~ produce a dispersed message image; and

a4) cyclically shifting the dispersed message image by a spatial offset to produce a cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message image.

3. (Currently Amended) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~spatially~~ cyclically shifted dispersed message images are not visible when added to the frames of the ~~digital~~ image sequence.

4. (Original) The method claimed in claim 2, wherein the carrier image has random phase and substantially flat Fourier amplitude.

Claim 5, 6 and 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein the ~~spatially~~ cyclically shifted versions of the dispersed message image are shifted randomly for successive frames.

Claims 9 and 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

[[c)]] e) determining the spatial shift ~~applied~~ corresponding to each ~~spatially~~ cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message image in a plurality of frames; [[and]]

[[d)]] f) aligning ~~a plurality~~ the plurality of frames based on the determined ~~shift applied~~ spatial shifts corresponding to the respective dispersed message images and ~~averaging~~ combining the aligned frames to produce ~~an average~~ a combined frame; and

[[e)]] g) extracting the message image from the ~~averaged~~ combined frame.

12. (Currently Amended) The method claimed in claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

[[c)]] e) determining the spatial shift ~~applied~~ corresponding to each ~~spatially~~ cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message image in a plurality of frames; [[and]]

[[d)]] f) aligning ~~a plurality~~ the plurality of frames based on the determined ~~shift applied~~ spatial shifts corresponding to the respective dispersed message images and ~~averaging~~ combining the aligned frames to produce ~~an average~~ a combined frame; and

[[e)]] g) extracting the message image from the ~~averaged~~ combined frame by correlating the carrier image with the ~~averaged~~ combined frame.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for embedding message data in ~~a digital image~~ an image sequence having two or more frames, comprising:

a) means for providing a dispersed message image representative of the message data; [[and]]

b) means for producing a cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message image corresponding to a spatial offset;

[[b)]] c) means for combining ~~spatially shifted versions~~ the cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message image with ~~successive frames~~ a frame of the ~~digital~~ image sequence; and

d) means for ~~repeating~~ initiating repetition of the means for producing and means for combining.

14. (Currently Amended) The system claimed in claim 13, wherein the means for ~~providing a~~ producing a cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message data image includes:

a1) means for producing a message image representing the message data;

a2) means for providing a carrier image; [[and]]

a3) means for convolving the message image with the carrier image to produce the dispersed message image; and

a4) means for cyclically shifting the dispersed message image by a spatial offset to produce a cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message image.

15. (Currently Amended) The system claimed in claim 13, wherein the ~~spatially~~ cyclically shifted versions of the dispersed message image are not visible when added to the frames of the ~~digital~~ image sequence.

16. (Original) The system claimed in claim 14, wherein the carrier image has random phase and substantially flat Fourier amplitude.

Claims 17, 18 and 19. (Canceled)

-4-

20. (Currently Amended) The system claimed in claim 13 wherein the means for ~~spatially~~ cyclically shifting the dispersed message image employs random spatial shifts.

Claims 21 and 22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The system claimed in claim 13, further comprises:

[[c)]] e) means for determining the spatial shift ~~applied~~ corresponding to each ~~spatially~~ cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message image in a plurality of frames; [[and]]

[[d)]] f) means for aligning ~~a plurality~~ the plurality of frames based on the determined ~~shift applied~~ spatial shifts corresponding to the respective dispersed message images and ~~averaging~~ combining the aligned frames to produce ~~an average~~ a combined frame; and

[[e)]] g) means for extracting the message image from the ~~averaged~~ combined frame.

24. (Currently Amended) The system claimed in claim 14, further comprises:

[[c)]] e) means for determining the spatial shift ~~applied~~ corresponding to each ~~spatially~~ cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message image in a plurality of frames; [[and]]

[[d)]] f) means for aligning ~~a plurality~~ the plurality of frames based on the determined ~~shift applied~~ spatial shifts corresponding to the respective dispersed message images and ~~averaging~~ combining the aligned frames to produce ~~an average~~ a combined frame; and

[[e)]] g) means for extracting the message image from the ~~averaged~~ combined frame by correlating the carrier image with the ~~averaged~~ combined frame.

Claims 25 and 26. (Canceled)

-5-

27. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of producing a cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message image includes the steps of:

a1) producing a message image representing the message data;

a2) cyclically shifting the message image by a spatial offset to produce a cyclically shifted message image;

a3) providing a carrier image; and

a4) convolving the cyclically shifted message image with the carrier image to produce a cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message image.

28. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of producing a cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message image includes the steps of:

a1) producing a message image representing the message data;

a2) providing a carrier image;

a3) cyclically shifting the carrier image by a spatial offset to produce a cyclically shifted carrier image; and

a4) convolving the message image with the cyclically shifted carrier image to produce a cyclically shifted version of the dispersed message image.